

FISCAL NOTE

SB 218 - HB 1044

February 5, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the local education agencies, to develop a program to provide grants of up to \$200 for the purchase of computers by parents of school-aged children to provide such children computer access in the home. Grant assistance shall be available only to parents who are unable to purchase computers from their own resources. The program shall include application for any available federal funds or private grants or other funding. The commissioner is directed to contract with computer manufacturing companies to provide a uniform, low-cost design that would be available for bulk purchase.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$3,125,000 - \$6,250,000

Estimate assumes:

- *grants of up to \$200* means grants ranging from \$100 to \$200.
- *parents otherwise unable to purchase computers from their own resources* means parents of children on free and reduced priced lunch.
- there are 375,000 children on the free and reduced lunch program.
- an average of three children per household or approximately 125,000 potentially eligible families for this program.
- all cost is assumed to be a state cost. However, the total expenditures to state government would be less to the extent any federal or private funds are obtained to assist in the purchase of computers.
- computers are estimated to cost at least \$1,000 each. The remaining \$800 would have to be paid by the family or with federal or private funds.
- with a range of \$100-\$200, the state cost per grant and a participation rate of at least 25% (31,250), state expenditures are estimated to range from \$3,125,000 to \$6,250,000. This does not include any administrative cost to the Department of Education.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

SB 218 - HB 1044